

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: ROK/STUDENT RELATIONS AT IMPASSE

REF: SEOUL 8124

1. RELATIONS BETWEEN ROKG AND STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AT IMPASSE SINCE PERIOD SHORTLY BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT. ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN REDUCED IN BOTH INTENSITY AND SCOPE BUT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND STUDENTS WILL ULTIMATELY PAY PRICE. WHEN CAMPUSES ARE CLOSED, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOT HELD, BUT AS HAPPENS MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY, WHEN CAMPUSES DO REOPEN, CLASSES ARE NOT HELD. AS ONE EDUCATOR WRITELY NOTED, ALL KOREAN EDUCATION WILL SOON BE BY CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.

2. SINCE DECEMBER 1, ALL MAJOR CAMPUSES HAVE ANNOUNCED REOPENINGS BUT IN EFFECT, VERY FEW SCHOOLS ARE CONDUCTING BUSINESS AS USUAL. PRESTIGIOUS SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) AND SOGANG UNIVERSITY, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE HOLDING NO FORMAL CLASSES. ASSIGNMENTS ARE COMPLETED AT HOME AND IN SNU'S CASE, EVEN LIBRARY

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DOORS ARE CLOSED TO STUDENTS.

3. ADMINISTRATORS ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN FICTION THAT SCHOOLS ARE OPEN TO SATISFY ROKG'S STRICT CODE ON REQUIRED NUMBER OF DAYS (220) STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASS ANNUALLY. GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTEDLY INDICATED IT WOULD TACTILY WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT IF UNIVERSISITES WOULD NOT EMBARRASS THEM BY FORMALLY PETITIONING FOR IT.

4. KOREA UNIVERSITY (KU) FINALLY REOPENED ON DECEMBER 15 AND WHEN STUDENTS TRIED TO ORGANIZE MAJOR DEMONSTRATION TWO DAYS LATER, CAMPUS AUTHORITIES SUCCESSFULLY INTERVENED. ACCORDING TO KU FACULTY MEMBER, HOWEVER, MUCH VALUABLE TIME IS SPENT DISCOURAGING DEMONSTRATIONS.

5. LONG RANGE PROBLEM REMAINS. STUDENTS ARE NOT GETTING FULL BENEFIT OF EDUCATION AND PARENTS ARE LOSING THEIR INVESTMENT. IN EDUCATION-CONSCIOUS KOREA, THIS DEVICE KEEPS SCHOOLS OFFICIALLY OPEN BUT WITHOUT FULL CLASSROOM ACTIVITY, WOULD SEEM TO BE ONLY TEMPORARY PALLIATIVE.
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Message Attributes

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